(c) to what extent these Centres will help to provide help and assistance to visitors who come for a short while?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATIAMBIKA SONI): (a) Development and upgradation of tourist infrastructure at tourist destinations and circuits is primarily the responsibility of State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism however, provides financial assistance to State/Union Territories for tourism projects based on proposals received from them in accordance with scheme guidelines subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority. During the year 2007-08, 277 tourism projects for Rs. 64513.23 lakhs were sanctioned for development and promotion of tourist destinations in the country.

Yes, Sir.

Together with improving and upgrading infrastructure at destinations/circuits, Ministry of Tourism is also promoting India as a destination for both long and short holidays in potential markets through campaigns in the print, internet, outdoor and electronic media. Information is also disseminated through the website, brochures, leaflets and by the India Tourism in the country and abroad.'

**Promotion of religious tourism**

3831. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 517 given in the Rajya Sabha on 4th March, 2008 and state:

what is being done by Government to promote religious tourism in Uttar Pradesh particularly to attract tourists to visit Buddhist and Jain sites;

whether Government will promote the sites of Uttar Pradesh under Incredible India campaign; and

if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) Development and Promotion of tourism including religious tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Government/UT Administrations. However, Ministry of Tourism extends Central Financial Assistance to State Government/UT Administrations for infrastructure development under "Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits" scheme of the Ministry. Ministry of Tourism had sanctioned projects worth Rs. 1390.63 lakh during the year 2007-08 to Uttar Pradesh.

Ministry of Tourism also promotes and publicises the places of religious importance through print and electronic media as part of Incredible India campaign.

**Promotion of tourism in Uttarakhand**

3832. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allotted for the promotion of tourism in the hill station of Uttarakhand during the year 2007-08; and

(b) the names of hill stations identified for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under the Scheme, 'Product/Infrastructure Development for Destinations and Circuits'.

During the year 2007-08, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, sanctioned Rs. 2076.04 lakh to the Government of Uttarakhand for development and promotion of tourism. The details are as under:

*(Rs. in lakh)*

| SI. No. | Name of the Project | Amount Sanctioned |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Pilgrim Circuit | 466.59 |
| 2. | Development of Dhanaulti-Chamba-Narendranagar | 554.93 |
| 3. | Development of Corbett National Park as a Tourist Circuit | 602.00 |
| 4. | Development of Munsyari as a Tourist Destination | 452.52 |
| | TOTAL: | 2076.04 |

**Development of mega tourist circuit in Orissa**

3833. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

whether the Centre proposes to develop a mega tourist circuit/destination of national importance;

if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the tourist projects that are proposed to be developed in Orissa under this project; and

what is the action plan of Government to develop additional hotel accommodation and create institutional infrastructure for training of manpower to meet the demand of increased tourist inflow in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development of tourist circuits and destinations is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism however, provides financial assistance to State/Union Territories for tourism projects including mega projects based on proposals received from them in accordance with scheme guidelines subject to availability of funds and inter-se priority.

The Ministry has sanctioned 12 projects for Rs. 2376.30 lakhs for development and promotion of tourism in Orissa during 2007-08.

(c) The Ministry is constantly in touch with the various Land Owning Agencies like Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Urban Development, DDA, etc. to identify additional hotel sites and monitor the construction of hotels. These agencies and the State Governments of the Uttar Pradesh and Haryana have also been advised